

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-28 were previously canceled without prejudice.

Claims 29-39 are withdrawn.

Claims 40-64 are canceled without prejudice.

65. (currently amended) A game ball comprising:
a casing having a curved outer surface and a laced region; and
a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing and outwardly extending from the curved outer surface of the casing, the lacing having an exposed surface comprised of an outer material that is compressible, resilient, and tactile, the outer material having ~~a modulus of elasticity of between 14 and 170 kg/cm²~~ and a tensile strength between 100 and 650 kg/cm², the lacing including a plurality of transversely extending lace segments and at least one longitudinally extending segment, the lacing being a unitary integral cord assembly along the length of the at least one longitudinally extending segment and at least one of the transversely extending lace segments.

66. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 65 wherein the outer material has a ~~modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 110 kg/cm²~~ and a tensile strength between 450 and 600 kg/cm².

67. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 66, wherein the lacing further comprises an inner substrate coupled to an outer layer.

68. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the outer layer is attached to the inner substrate using a means selected from the group consisting of adhesive bonding, stitching, stapling, mechanical bonding, heat bonding and combinations thereof.

69. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the inner substrate is formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of a woven cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane impregnated cloth, and a combination thereof.

70. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the inner substrate is formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of at least one nylon strand, at least one polyester strand, braided fibers, plastic, latex, vinyl, a rope, a wire, a leather strip and a combination thereof.

71. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the inner substrate includes at least one strand of a high tensile strength material and a plastic generally surrounding to the strand.

72. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 71 wherein the at least one strand is formed of a strand material selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a nylon, a metal and a polymer.

73. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 66 wherein at least a portion of the exposed surface includes a pebbled texture.

74. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 66 wherein the outer material is selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a dry process polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, other polymers, other foams, and a combination thereof.

75. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the inner substrate has a top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side.

76. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the inner substrate has a top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side and the bottom side.

77. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the outer layer substantially surrounds the inner substrate.

78. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 65 wherein the outer material has a ~~modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 70 kg/cm² and~~ a tensile strength between 450 and 524 kg/cm².

79. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 65 wherein the outer material has a ~~modulus of elasticity of between 71 and 110 kg/cm² and~~ a tensile strength between 525 and 600kg/cm².

80. (currently amended) A game ball comprising:
a casing having and a laced region; and
a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing, the lacing having an exposed surface comprised of an outer material that is compressible, resilient, and tactile, the outer material having a ~~modulus of elasticity of between 14 and 170 kg/cm²~~ a tensile strength between 100 and 650 kg/cm², the lacing defining a non-diverging path as it extends about the laced region.

81. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 80 wherein the outer material has a ~~modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 110 kg/cm² and~~ a tensile strength between 450 and 600 kg/cm².

82. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the lacing further comprises an inner substrate coupled to an outer layer.

83. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the outer layer is attached to the inner substrate using a means selected from the group consisting of adhesive bonding, stitching, stapling, mechanical bonding, heat bonding and combinations thereof.

84. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the inner substrate is formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of a woven cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane impregnated cloth, and a combination thereof.

85. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the inner substrate is formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of at least one nylon strand, at least one polyester strand, braided fibers, plastic, latex, vinyl, a rope, a wire, a leather strip and a combination thereof.

86. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the inner substrate has a top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side.

87. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the outer layer substantially surrounds the inner substrate.

88. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 80, wherein at least a portion of the exposed surface includes a pebbled texture.

89. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 80 wherein the outer material is selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a dry process polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, and a combination thereof.

90. (canceled) The game ball of claim 80, wherein the outer material has a tensile strength between 100 and 650 kg/cm².

91. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 80 wherein the outer material has a ~~modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 70 kg/cm²~~ and a tensile strength between 450 and 524 kg/cm².

92. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 80 wherein the outer material has a modulus of elasticity of between 71 and 110 kg/cm² and a tensile strength between 525 and 600 kg/cm².